(b) if so, whether it is a fact that since February, 1993, TEC has been receiving only about 500 MT per day as reported in the 'Observer', New Delhi of August 10, 1993; if so, what are the reasons for the cut of gas suply to TEC;

(c) whether due to fuel shortage TEC had a breakdown of power by 5 million units during the year 1992-93;

(d) whether this fall in generation affects its supply to Railways, Bombay Municipal Corporation and Bhabha Atomic Research Centre; and

(e) if so what steps the ONGC have taken or propose to take to restore the required gas supply to TEC?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The supply was reduced in some of the months but not below 940 MT/day.

(c) to (e) TEC has the capability to use liquid furl (LSHS) and coal to make up for shortage of natural gas.

Opening of LPG Agencies and Petrol Pumps in Tamil Nadu

4077. SHRI S. AUSTIN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received some applications for opening the LPG agencies and petrol pumps in Tamil Nadu;

(b) if so, places from where such demands have been received; and

(c) the decision taken by Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA): (a) to (c) Requests are received from time to time from various parts of the country including Tamil Nadu for setting up and allotment of Retail Outlet dealerships and LPG distributorships. After survey, locations meeting the Industry norms are included in the Marketing Plans for opening of dealerships/distibutorships. Accordingly, 96 retail outlet and 44 LPG distributorship proposals have been included in the current Marketing Plans, for Tamil Nadu.

Selection for appointment of Retail Outlet dealers/LPG distributors is made by an Oil Selection Board through interview of persons applying against advertisements and meeting eligibility criteria.

Selection of dealers/distributors is in progress.

Response of MNCs to Oil Exploration

4078. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the response of multi-national for oil exploration auctions has been very poor; if so, reasons thereof;

(b) whether it is a fact that one of the reasons of lukewarm response is invironmental condition; and

(c) whether environment protection condition will be elaborately stipulated in the tenders; if so, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA): (a) The response of multinational companies for oil exploration in the country has been satisfactory keeping in view the current climate for investment in exploration activities in the international market.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) The conditions for environment protection are included in the production sharing contracts, in line with current inter-national standards.

Meeting of CMs of southern states regarding southern gas grid

4079. SHRI M. A. BABY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any meeting of the Chief Ministers from the Southern States has been held where they had consultation in about the implementation of the Southern gas grid, if so, the details thereof;

(b) what is the present state of the Southern gas grid proposal; and

(c) what are the future plans with the time frame with regard to the implementation of Southern gas grid?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA): (a) to (c) The concept of laying a

gas pipeline from the Western offshore to the Southern region has been approved in principle. The proposal envisages the use of surplus gas from the Western offshore. This is also proposed to be supplemented by imported LNG and possibly pipeline imports of natural gas from the Middle East. There were reports that references were made to Southern Gas Grid in a meeting of Southern Chief Ministers.

Loan from Exim Bank of Japan to ONGC

4080. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Export-Import Bank of Japan has agreed to provide an united loan of 22,525 million yen to the ONGC to finance a flare gas reduction project as reported in the Economic Times, New Delhi dated 29th July, 1993;

(b) if so, the details thereof and when the deal is likely to be finalised; and

(c) when the flare gas reduction project likely to be commissioned indicating the present rate of flaring of gas from Bombay High and the total quantity thereof likely to be saved annually by this Project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The loan agreement was signed on 28th July, 1993. It is proposed to finance through this loan the foreign currency expenditures of the project for expansion of shore terminal facilities at Hazira, which is a component of the Gas Flaring Reducion Project (GFRP).

(c) The GFRP is expected to be completed in phases from April 1994 to February 1996. After completion of the project, the availability of gas is projected to be about 55 MMSCMD from the present level of around 36 MMSCMD.

Reduction in the gas supplied to Kakinada and Jegurupadu Power Projects

4081. SHRI N. GIRI PRASAD: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government of India reduced gas allocation by about 50 percent out of 1.5 MCMD gas to each of Kakinada and Jegurupadu Gas-based Power Projects in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) what are the reasons therefor?

(c) when the full allocation of gas will be restored; and

(d) when will the Government of India take steps for legally enforceable fuel supply to the Two Power Units?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA): (a) and (b) The reduction was necessitated by the reduced availability of gas from the K. G. Basin.

(c) Restoration may be considered if and when the availability of gas increases.

(d) Gas supply contracts have been signed with both the units.

Madras Refineries Limited Project

4082. SHRI V. RAJAN CHELLAPPA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the present status of Madras Refineries Limited's projects for setting up of an AROMATIC COMPLEX in the Joint Sector at Madras; and

(b) whether the project is on schedule and by when it will be completed and details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA): (a) and (b) The Aromatic Complex in the Joint Sector originally scheduled to have been completed within 33 months from May, 1992, the date of the project clearance by Government is likely to be delayed in view of the late agreement between the Joint Venture Company and the process licensor.

Delay in supply of equipment to major projects

4083. SHRI VIREN J. SHAH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there have been inordinate delays in supply of equipment to the major projects i.e. Ravva, Panna, Neelam and L-III projects;

(b) if so, what are the reasons for the delay in supply of equipment which companies are responsible for it and what action Government have taken against them;

(c) what are the details of progress made so far in respect of each project;